
SALT MARSH

Overview

For thousands of years, people have come to the marsh for its rich supply of fish, crabs, clams, and oysters. It also provides homes for numerous wading birds. In addition, the marsh is a nursery for a wealth of coastal species. Much of Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge is a marsh estuary; where freshwater drains from the uplands and mixes with the salty water of the sea.

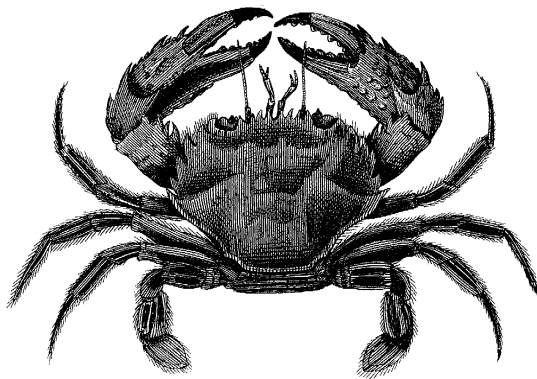
Species Checklist

Animals

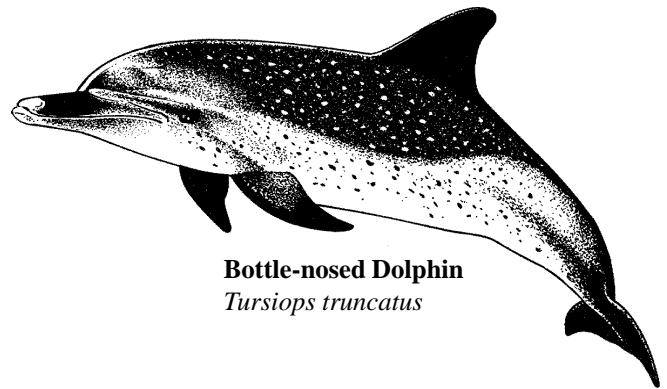
bottle-nosed dolphin
blue crab
clam
clapper rail
common egret
fiddler crab
flounder
great blue heron
marsh wren
northern harrier
osprey
oyster
royal tern
sea trout
shrimp
spot-tail bass
wood stork

Plants

spartina (cordgrass)



Blue Crab
Callinectes sapidus



Bottle-nosed Dolphin
Tursiops truncatus

Vocabulary

Class I Wilderness Area
detritus
invertebrate
shellfish
shorebird
wading bird

Important Messages



Marshes are full of life. They are home to many birds, shellfish, and fish.



Shellfish and aquatic invertebrates thrive in the rich layers of detritus.



Much of the Cape Romain marsh has been classified as a Class I Wilderness Area and is protected by strict land use laws.



The marshes and their abundance of fish and shellfish provide the local economy with a million dollar business. In 1880, Charleston was the largest shrimp shipping port in America.



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service closely monitors populations and habitats of migrating shore- and wading birds which rely on this habitat for their survival.

